

**Meeting Minutes of
The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health
1:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 13, 2010**

The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health met at 1:00 PM. on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, in Barry Hall's Conference Room 126, 14 Harrington Road, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Chair, Richard, Leclerc, Bruce Long, Sandra DelSesto, Carolann Livingstone (proxy for James Gillen), Peter Mendoza, Anne Mulready, Neil Corkery, Reed Cospers, Noreen Shawcross and Elizabeth Earls.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Denise Achin, Department of Education; Sandy Woods, DCYF; Sharon Kernan, Department of Human Services; Craig Stenning, Department of MHRH, Frederic Friedman, Department of Corrections.

Guests: Ian Knowles, Vivian Weisman, Alice Woods, Richard C. Antonelli,

MHRH Staff: Charles Williams, Corinna Roy, and Noelle Wood.

Once a quorum was established, the Chair, Richard Leclerc, called the meeting to order at 1:10 P.M. After introductions were conducted, Richard Leclerc entertained a motion to accept the Minutes of March 11, 2010. Peter Mendoza motioned to approve which was seconded. Richard Leclerc called for a vote to approve the minutes, all were in favor and the minutes were approved as amended.

Subcommittee Reports:

1. **Transitioning Youth:** The group has been growing and now has 26 members. Tom Martin and Stephanie Coia from MHRH and Tanya Alderman and Sandy Woods from DCYF did a joint presentation at the January meeting. David Sienko (RIDE) presented on Secondary Transition at our March 26 meeting. The group is looking to have ORS do a presentation for their next meeting which will be on Friday, May 7th.
2. **Recovery-Oriented System of Care:** The three workgroups within this subcommittee are finalizing recommendations and expect to be able to present them to the full council at the next meeting.

Updates from DHS: Sharon Kernan stated that DHS is still in the process of reprocurring their contracts for Managed Care services under Rite-Care, Rite Share and Rhodi Health Partners. She expects to have the RFP released in April. Due to the delay, the start date for implementation is now some time in August. She also stated that their Shared Living program is moving forward. They have determined that two agencies will be their providers, Homestead and Caregiver Homes of Rhode Island. Their programs will be available this month.

Updates on MHRH Data Elements:

Noelle Wood responded to several questions that came up regarding MHRH Data elements that were presented at the February, 2010 meeting of the Council. She stated that the significant drop in Substance Abuse Narcotics Maintenance Admissions from 2007 to 2008 is largely due to one provider although it did drop across all providers. She is checking on the one provider to determine if their data is accurate. The substantial increase in admissions in 2009 is due to increased capacity realized through the Access to Recovery Grant.

Noelle then distributed a presentation of admissions to inpatient psychiatric services and detoxifications services from 2005 through 2009 that showed the proportion of admits that were homeless individuals (See Attachment A). The data shows that homeless individuals have represented a larger proportion of inpatient

psychiatric admissions over the past two years (26% to 27.4%, up from 11.5% to 14.4% in 2006-7), and that homeless individuals have represented about 30 percent of admits to detoxifications since 2005.

Noelle stated that there are some national benchmarks that we can compare RI to that are part of the Uniform Reporting System (URS) that is submitted with the Block Grant application. However, she cautioned the group to understand that in many cases these measures are based on very different systems and service models. In addition, satisfaction measures are only collected with CSP clients who choose to respond. Liz Earls asked Noelle to share the national data when she sends out local data to providers.

Updates from MHRH: Craig Stenning stated that there is a budget hearing on the same day as the May is Mental Health month celebration and requested that Vivian Weisman from the Mental Health Association send a message to the Governor's Office requesting that the hearing date be changed.

He mentioned that they are consolidating ESH and two other properties to realize savings and increased efficiencies. The supplemental budget is out. There are no direct cuts to community-based services. Instead, every Department has made cuts to FTEs to avoid other cuts, but now that has been taken away as an area for Departments to save even though caseloads and workloads have increased. This accounts for about \$3M.

A final area of savings that Departments are expected to pass on is through indirect costs for Federal grants. While we do take some administrative dollars for some grants, our policy has been to try to maximize service dollars by not taking administrative dollars. The new expectation is that for all of our existing grants we will pass on a five percent administrative fee for the whole year of the grant in a 75-day period. This is not always possible due to budgets with approved line items and even if it can be done it takes about 6 months to make that kind of change. There will be an attempt to have each Department sit down with house finance to discuss each grant individually. When the trailer bill is developed, which is usually the last supplemental, done after the May revenue and caseload conference; the indirect rate issue could be discussed—or at least a recognition of the problem related to the appropriation of five percent of the funding for these grants.

Craig then discussed the recent flood. He stated that all of the community providers came forward to help out and managed to endure the floods without a significant interruption of service or any injuries or deaths. As of yesterday, 720 individuals were affected by the flood. Some had to be moved from their homes or offices by boat. Staff of these agencies have pitched in to salvage their workplaces, and while some were covered by FEMA others have been wiped out by the flood and have been denied because of technicalities. MHRH staff and our partners in the community have been staffing up to seven Emergency Resource Centers seven days a week from 8 AM to 7 PM, so we all rose to the occasion.

Updates from DCYF: Janet Anderson stated that DCYF was lucky not to have been as severely affected by the flood as MHRH. None of the group homes had to be evacuated, although some of the foster homes had problems. DCYF staff were the most affected by the flood.

In terms of the budget, DCYF is facing very similar challenges to MHRH in terms of having staffing savings scooped and the capturing of the indirect dollars from Federal grants. We might have a little more opportunity for capturing the indirect dollars than MHRH.

The Family Care Community Partnerships are moving on coarse—they are halfway through the second year of this major transformation. There has been an increase in the number of child abuse calls. The increase in

calls is a result of the stresses of the economic climate and the effect of the FCCP's presence in the community is in fact a decrease in referrals to FSU. Therefore, we are able to keep families in their homes. We are now working with DHS to make sure that RItCare covers more intensive community-based programming.

Phase II of the RFP for systems of care has been delayed. We are in the process of doing the CFSR for the ACF of the child welfare populations. The idea is to promote the safety, permanency and wellbeing of kids. We had two years to meet PIP, which was very labor intensive.

DCYF Data Elements: Janet Anderson presented data on children and youth in selected out-of-home placements for calendar years 2007 through 2009 (See Attachment B). Sandy Woods then presented data identified by the Governor's Council's Data subcommittee (See Attachment C). Vivian Weisman requested additional data on transitioning youth, 15 and up and on trauma-related issues. Bruce Long requested unduplicated data. Janet Anderson explained that they pulled the data from the RICHES system, which is designed to assist in case management not data reporting and that their ability to report on some of the requested measures is very limited because information is in narrative form as opposed to a relational database. However, she stated that the data is showing a reduction in out-of-home placements which creates a cost savings. Elizabeth Earls requested that DCYF provide a comparison of out-of-home versus in community placements, which Janet agreed to produce. In addition there were requests for data on all DCYF kids not just out-of-home placements. Sandra DelSesto expressed concern that the removal of kids due to substance abuse issues has remained the same and that this needs to be addressed. Elizabeth Earls then commented that through the Global Waiver, when kids are removed parents should be able to keep insurance so they can get treatment and asked that this be included in DHS's presentation at the next meeting.

Marijuana Legislation: Bruce Long described the two entities that are trying to get the legislation passed to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of Marijuana. One side doesn't mind the idea of it being decriminalized; the other sees savings at the ACI. He's concerned that it will destroy all of the hard work that the prevention task forces have done. He stated that current laws make possession of alcohol illegal, but being drunk when you are underage is not, and kids know this and take advantage of it. Denise Achin distributed some data from the Kids Count report. She stated that a similar law was passed in MA with negative effects; however it did have a provision that kids who were caught to take a class on the negative effects of drug use. She suggested that this provision needs to be added to the RI law. Interested parties should consider testifying on this law if they disagree with it.

Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for **Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. in Barry Hall room 126.**